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**REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**STATEMENT BY  
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Permanent Representative**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**54<sup>th</sup> WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
ORGANISATION (WIPO) SERIES OF ASSEMBLIES  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014**

**Madam President,**

**WIPO Director General,**

**Honourable Ministers**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

1. Allow me Madam President to begin by wishing you success in chairing this Assembly and assure you of our full support. I also wish to thank the Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry and his team for the comprehensive and informative annual report, as well as preparations for this Assembly.
2. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate the Director General on his re-election and wish him and his team success.
3. Madam President, my delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Kenya on behalf of the Africa Group and we add a few points of our own.
4. Let me register my delegations' concern on the slow progress in the normative committees since the last Assemblies. In this regard let me call on all Members to demonstrate flexibility

and political will to achieve progress in the coming year. As we continue to engage, there is need to recognise that WIPO Member States are at different levels of development. Despite an impressive increase in the filing of patents and registration of marks, only a few countries continue to account for higher registrations. The African Continent continues to lag behind and in this connection, needs technical assistance and capacity building.

5. As Intellectual Property can be a great contributor to sustainable development, it remains critical that WIPO continues to mainstream Development Agenda Recommendations into the work of WIPO Committees and ensure their implementation and monitoring. I would also like to underscore the importance my country attaches to the urgent conclusion of the IGC negotiations and those on Exceptions and Limitations for Libraries and Archives, and Education Research Institutions. We hope these Assemblies will provide guidance on the way forward on the outstanding issues.
6. Madam President, let me take this opportunity to apprise these Assemblies of efforts made by my Government to change and

shape the intellectual property landscape in Botswana. Botswana has started implementing the National Intellectual Property Development Plan for Botswana which was approved in May 2012. We are currently in discussions with WIPO Secretariat with respect to assistance on developing a National Intellectual Property Policy.

7. Following the establishment of the Collective Management Organization (CMO) in 2010, we are happy to inform this august gathering that Botswana officially launched the Nation's First Distribution of Royalties with respect to the Music Industry in February 2014, followed by a second distribution in September 2014. This has brought not only encouragement and appreciation but also confidence in the right-holders as they enjoy the fruit of their creativity.
8. Madam President, Botswana recognizes and appreciates the assistance that we continue to receive from the World Intellectual Property Organisation towards the development of its IP regime. This includes the deployment of the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) of the IPAS in May 2014, the development of Botswana's Protection of New Plant Varieties Draft Bill, Counterfeit Legislation, and Copyright



Arbitration Panel Rules and Regulations. These measures are good for efficiency, improved protection and economic growth.

9. Institutionally, Madam President, Botswana has established The Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) as an autonomous body. Operations have commenced and we will need WIPO support.
10. In conclusion, Madame President, my delegation looks forward to a constructive dialogue in the following days for a successful outcome of the Assemblies.